



BILL FINCH
Mayor

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TESTIMONY FROM THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, MAYOR BILL FINCH
TO THE
BANKS COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 1, 2011

RE: S.B. No. 957 AN ACT CONCERNING NEIGHBORHOOD PROTECTION.

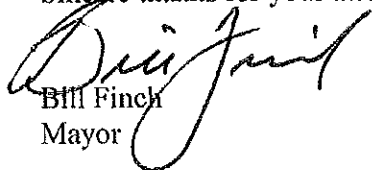
Good morning to our committee chairs Senator Duff and Representative Tong, Ranking Members, and members of the Committee. My name is Bill Finch and I am the Mayor of the City of Bridgeport.

Thank you for this opportunity to address you regarding an important piece of legislation under your consideration. Specifically, I would like to discuss raised bill number 957, which would give municipalities more oversight on foreclosed properties.

The city of Bridgeport believes this legislation will be very helpful with our ability to monitor foreclosure structures. The current foreclosure registration provisions contained in P.A. 09-144 (now codified as C.G.S. 7-148hh, 7-148ii, and 7-148jj) unnecessarily tie towns' hands in a way that makes the procedure of limited use to towns. This would not be a problem, except that the statute also prohibits towns from adopting foreclosure registration or notice ordinances of their own. New Haven is the only town allowed to have a different kind of ordinance, because it was grandfathered by P.A. 09-144.

I believe S.B. 957 addresses many of the issues municipalities have with monitoring and blight enforcement on foreclosed structures. I would urge the banks committee to support this legislation.

Sincere thanks for your attention,


Bill Finch
Mayor